

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to reflect the current status of the parent applications.

By the present amendments, claims 1-4, 6-13, 23-27, and new claims 30-38 now appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Claims 5, 14-22, 28 and 29 have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not claimed in the current application.

New claims 30-38 have been added. Support for the new claims is found in the specification and originally filed claims. For example, support for new claim 30 can be found in original claim 10. Support for new claim 31 can be found in original claim 5. Support for new claim 32 can be found in original claim 9. Support for new claim 33 can be found in the specification at page 7, lines 28-29. Support for new claim 34 can be found in the specification at page 9, lines 8-9. Support for new claim 35 can be found in original claim 11. Support for new claims 36 and 37 can be found in original claim 12. Support for new claim 38 can be found in original claim 13.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of original claim 5.

Thus, no new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification and claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 14, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,714,253 to Nakahara et al.

Claim 1 has been amended such that it contains all of the elements of claim 5.

Each of claims 3, 4 and 6-8 depends from claim 1.

Claims 14, 16, 18 and 19 have been cancelled.

New independent claim 30 contains all of the elements of claim 10.

Each of new claims 31-38 depends from claim 30.

Thus, Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome by the present amendments to the claims, and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-27 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,547,677 to Sullivan et al. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that the conflicting claims are patentably distinct from each other. However, in order to further the prosecution of the present application, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321(c).

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been presented to the Examiner's satisfaction.

A fee of \$130 is believed to be due for this submission because it includes a Terminal Disclaimer. Should any additional fees be required, please charge such fees to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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